

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRESS SERVICE



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate.

January 13, 1932.

SECRETARY HYDE TO REORGANIZE MIGRATORY BIRD BOARD

In order to achieve a broader representation of sportsmen and conservationists upon the Advisory Board, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and to obtain a large measure of local cooperation in the problems of conservation and enforcement, a reorganization of the board is being planned by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde. As a means of securing more direct regional representation on this board, the States have been tentatively divided into ten groups. These groups are so arranged as to give consideration to such matters as relative density of population and the similarity of conditions affecting migratory birds, as well as the various interests of those who are concerned in the welfare of these birds. A majority of the members of the board will be selected from these groups in cooperation with and upon the recommendation of the State conservation officials. In addition to the members representing the various groups of States, the Secretary will select and appoint a number of members at large.

The Advisory Board is organized for the purpose of assisting the Federal authorities in a solution of regulatory problems in connection with the Federal administration of the migratory-bird resource. No criticism of any past board is intended by this action. In the past the Board has numbered among its members nationally-known sportsmen, naturalists, and conservationists, as well as prominent officials of the various State game and fish commissions and its work has been valuable to the Department, as well as to all other interests involved. The change is deemed advisable purely from the standpoint of obtaining wider cooperation and responsibility by regional representation.

When constituted, the new Advisory Board will be requested to study and recommend definite policies upon all questions affecting the interests of the sportsmen and conservationists of the United States and falling under the jurisdiction of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Such subjects as length of seasons, bag limits, shooting restrictions, zoning, measures for increasing the supply of both upland game birds and waterfowl and measures for conserving the existing supply will be submitted to it.